

# THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

No. 3. VOL. V.]

WASHINGTON CITY, JANUARY 17, 1818.

[VOL. I. FOR 1818]

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JOHN E. KEAD, AT FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

## CASE OF COL. ANDERSON.

Congress have at last despatched the case of colonel Anderson, but in a manner which we consider calculated to do them no honor with their constituents or posterity. The maintaining the right of arresting an individual, calling him to their bar, questioning him, and then reprimanding him, without an oath to substantiate his offence, is admitting their power to be *absolute*.

We made an error when we stated that congress could not try, detain or punish John Anderson, or consign him over to any tribunal that could: We find the contrary. We should have said that congress could not constitutionally try, detain or punish John Anderson. *This body it seems can do whatever they please.* The king in the free government of Great Britain, it is said, can do no wrong—so perhaps in this free government it may be said from this day *neither can congress*. If John Anderson could be tried for a contempt of the house and punished, and any reason can define this to be justice which tries and punishes a man for an offence which is not marked by any existing statute to be an offence; then indeed are we equally punishable with him for having dared to speak of the conduct of the house, pending the question of their powers, or thus daring to say that by their decision, according to our judgment, they have *usurped authority*. If the liberties of this country are at any day to be jeopardized and invaded, said a man, who, however, he may have stood, during his political career, will stand with posterity as one of the brightest ornaments of his country—and that man was Hamilton—if the liberties of this country are at any day to be jeopardized and invaded—behold the grave which will swallow them, said he, pointing to congress.—One man dare not attempt it, treasonable as he may be, his courage will fail when he comes to the sticking place, it is in a popular body, warm in debate, and their feelings taken by surprise, their better judgment asleep, that the liberties of the people are to be invaded by the very organs of the people themselves and who are but the servants of the people. These were the sentiments if not the very words of this statesman.

A contempt of court is definable—has congress a court? Have they hitherto considered themselves so, or are they about to clothe themselves with a new authority, throwing aside the letter of the constitution, and making provision for whatever privileges and power they may think most meet and fitting? The agitating a question in a public newspaper after a suit has

commenced or pending a trial, is considered a contempt of court and punishable. Are congress when they are legislating upon the contempt against their honorable body about to make it punishable to question the correctness of their proceedings? If they can try and punish John Anderson for an undefined crime, for which there is no law, so can they try and punish us for uttering and giving publicity to our sentiments of the unconstitutionality of their proceedings, and by an act of violence prostrate to the dust the palladium of our liberties, the freedom of the press, and the right of conscience.

Had every member of that body sanctioned their first act of arresting John Anderson, *by voting without a dissenting voice that they were right*, we should have equally reserved to ourselves the liberty, and should have as unequivocally have used it, to declare our opinion that they were *wrong*, and that they had transgressed against the charter under which they act.

Their powers are definite, and are written down for them, and not only are they told *how far they shall go, but how far they shall not*. From whom do they derive those powers? from the people—and all the power that is not delegated to them by the people is yet in the custody of the people themselves.

Had John Anderson applied for the act of habeas corpus, is there any judge or jury in the land that could have tried and convicted him? or is there any court of conscience that could have sentenced him to a reprimand? and can congress vest themselves with authority that can exceed all the bounds prescribed by law? Have they a constitution which defines their powers and privileges, or are they omnipotent? Patrick Henry among his many objections to the constitution, and which had their effect in producing a bill of rights, and the amendments which accompany it, made the following one, which we extract from Mr. Wirt's life of that great orator and statesman.

"The vast and alarming array of specific powers given to the general government, and the wide door opened for the unlimited extension of those powers by the clauses which authorized Congress to pass all laws necessary to carry the given powers into effect. It was urged that this clause rendered the previous specification of powers an idle illusion, since, by the force of construction arising from that clause, Congress might easily do any thing and every thing it chose under pretence of giving effect to some specified power."

By the proceedings of Congress in this case of Anderson's, do we behold the prophetic fears of Patrick Henry realized, and notwithstanding that amendment to the constitution, which says, no warrant shall issue but supported by oath or affirmation, do we find their first act, which, might have had its origin by the surprise and indignation of the moment, and the acknowledgment of which as an error would but have shewn the magnanimity of Congress; this act do we find maintained and defended with a pertinacity worthy of a better cause, and the prisoner arraigned under it, at the bar, and the sentence of the house passed upon him. If Congress had the power to arraign John Anderson at their bar, and pass upon him the sentence of a reprimand, they had equal authority to pass upon him sentence of death. If they had the power to arraign and question him, they had the power also to apply the torture, provided he refused to answer. Is Congress then, that awful tribunal, that inquisitorial body which we have read of in nations devoted to slavery and superstition? Have they the authority to clothe themselves with the sanguinary power of the secret judges? for if they have the right of punishing whatever they may deem or construe into an offence openly or by day, so have they the same right of punishing secretly and by night.

It is an easy matter to invade the liberties of a constitution or country; to preserve them inviolate however has hitherto been considered the duty and the interest of the representatives of the people. How far they may stand acquitted in their consciences by these proceedings, is not for us to inquire into, but according to our view of the subject, we would rather stand in the shoes of John Anderson, with all his reprimand upon his back, than in those of any of the majority of his judges who refused to discharge him or to allow that "they did not possess the constitutional power to try, or the right to punish him."—Throughout the whole of this novel and deeply interesting business, (for we consider that which infringes on the liberty of the citizen, the most interesting of all other considerations,) this gentleman has been handled with a severity, and suffered under a variability of judgment, as well as of feeling, which will do little credit to our annals. After having been brought up to the bar, he is sent from it without examination, and a constitutional question agitated, during which, waving the aid of counsel allowed to him, he asks for permission to make his defence and explanation to the House, not availing himself of their own doubts as to their own powers, which permission is refused him, but which in the latter stage of the proceeding he is called upon to perform, and to stand the test of an examination; and after

having been interrogated on the only point which could constitute him an offender; whether in writing to Lewis Williams, he had any intention to induce him to support his claims, "against his conviction of their justice, and to interfere with the discharge of his legislative duties, or to offer any contempt to the dignity of the House," and after having received his most solemn negative in the following words: "No, I call God to witness to that, which is the most sacred appeal I can make. I repeatedly assured him, that the offer was made without any wish to influence his opinions in any degree." With this appeal, under this denial, do the house order their speaker to reprimand him from the chair, which is performed with the most unrelenting severity, and which, in contempt of his most solemn asseveration, judges him as the most obdurate and equivocating of offenders.

All the testimony which was adduced, was highly honorable to the feelings and character of the prisoner; but if the house had prejudged the case, or previously determined to punish the prisoner by a reprimand, they might have spared him the trouble of denying that which they considered his offence. Had John Anderson replied to the question of his offence by acknowledging that his intention was to bribe or influence the judgment of the honorable member, then, indeed, might the house have had some reason to express its resentment; but when the offence is disclaimed, under an appeal to his God for the truth of what he utters, what right, what justice, dictated the sentence of a reprimand?—They had the evidence of the letter long ago in their hands. Was it upon this evidence they reprimanded him? If so, what necessity of questioning him on the subject? The evidence of the letter appeared to the house to mean the intention of bribery. To satisfy their minds, however, on this subject, John Anderson is interrogated whether he meant it as such—he denies such to be his intention, and calls God to hear him.

Admitting, for a moment, the power of the House to constitute the attempt to bribe a member, a crime, and that they had also the power to punish it; if that crime was not committed and it was altogether a mistake on their part, they certainly would not argue that they had the right to punish a man because they were in error.—John Anderson either did or did not attempt to bribe Mr. Lewis Williams by the letter. The Speaker asks him the question; and he solemnly swears he did not. Is John Anderson then to be punished because he did not attempt to bribe Mr. Williams? The whole of this business, look at it which way you will, is the most extravagant for a wise and deliberate body to commit that we ever heard of.

The close, however, of this charitable reprimand caps the climax. Not in the least mollified by the oath of colonel Anderson, that he meant no bribe—that he intended no contempt either to the member or the House—that he had unintentionally committed an error, which he was sorry for; but that beyond this his conscience was clear. The honorable Speaker, in the name of the honorable House, tells him in the most bitter taunt that he indulges the hope, that on his return home he will be more convinced of the magnitude of his offence. That is as much as to say, John Anderson, although you feel yourself innocent, the House indulges the hope that on your return home, madness may overtake you, and that you, ever after, may imagine yourself guilty.

John Anderson has demeaned himself thus far with humility, he has now another part to act, and he owes it as a duty to his country. *He should commence a suit at common law against the sergeant at arms for his arrest, and test the powers of Congress either to try him or to punish him.* As Patrick Henry says, when you speak to me of the privileges of the constitution, there is an ambiguity, sir, a great ambiguity, an ambiguity the most astonishing.

#### OFFICIAL PAPERS.

The following message and accompanying documents were transmitted, on the 13th instant, by the President of the United States, to both Houses of Congress.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.*

I have the satisfaction to inform Congress that the establishment at Amelia Island has been suppressed, and without the effusion of blood. The papers which explain this transaction, I now lay before Congress.

By the suppression of this establishment, and of that at Galveston, which will soon follow, if it has not already ceased to exist, there is good cause to believe that the consummation of a project fraught with much injury to the United States, has been prevented. When we consider the persons engaged in it, being adventurers from different countries, with very few, if any, of the native inhabitants of the Spanish colonies—the territory on which the establishments were made—one, on a portion of that claimed by the United States westward of the Mississippi, the other on a part of East Florida, a province in negotiation between the United States and Spain—the claim of their leader, as announced by his proclamation, in taking possession of Amelia Island, comprising the whole of both the Floridas, without excepting that part of West Florida which is incorporated into the state of Louisiana—their conduct while in the possession of the island, making it instrumental to every species of contraband, and in regard to slaves, of the most odious and dangerous character—it may fairly be concluded that if the enterprize had succeed on the scale on which it was formed, much annoyance and injury would have resulted from it to the United States.

Other circumstances were thought to be no less deserving of attention. The institution of a government by foreign adventurers in the island, distinct from the colonial government of Buenos Ayres, Venezuela, or Mexico, pretending to sovereignty, and exercising its highest offices, particularly in granting commissions to privateers, were acts which could not fail to draw after them the most serious consequences. It was the duty of the executive, either to extend to this establishment all the advantages of that neutrality, which the United States had proclaimed, and have observed, in favor of the colonies of Spain, who, by the strength of their own population and resources had declared their independence, and were affording strong proof of their ability to maintain it, or to make the discrimination which circumstances required. Had the first course been pursued, we should not only have sanctioned all the unlawful claims and practices of this pretended government in regard to the United States, but have countenanced a system of privateering in the Gulf of Mexico, and else where, the ill effects of which might, and probably would, have been deeply and very extensively felt. The path of duty was plain from the commencement; but it was painful to enter upon it while the obligation could be resisted. The law of 1811, lately published, and which it is, therefore, proper now to mention, was considered applicable to the case, from the moment that the proclamation of the chief of the enterprize was seen, and its obligation was daily increased by other considerations of high importance, already mentioned, which were deemed sufficiently strong in themselves to dictate the course which has been pursued.

Early intimation having been received of the dangerous purposes of these adventurers, timely precautions were taken, by the establishment of a force near the St. Mary's, to prevent their effect, or, it is probable, that they would have been more sensibly felt.

To such establishment, made so near our settlements, in the expectation of deriving aid from them, it is particularly gratifying to find that very little encouragement was given. The example so conspicuously displayed by our fellow citizens, that their sympathies cannot be perverted to improper purposes, but that a love of country, the influence of moral principles, and a respect for the laws, are predominant with them, is a sure pledge that all the very flattering anticipations, which have been formed of the success of our institutions, will be realized. This example has proved that if our relations with foreign power are to be changed, it must be done by the constituted authorities, who, alone, acting on a high responsibility, are competent to the purpose; and, until such change is thus made, that our fellow citizens will respect the existing relations, by a faithful adherence to the laws which secure them.

Believing that this enterprize though undertaken by persons, some of whom may have held commissions from some of the colonies, was unauthorized by, and unknown to the colonial governments, full confidence is entertained that it will be disclaimed by them, and that effectual measures will be taken to prevent the abuse of their authority, in all cases to the injury of the United States.

From these injuries especially those proceeding from Amelia Island, Spain would be responsible, if it was not manifest, that although commu-



ted in the latter instance, through her territory, she was utterly unable to prevent them. Her territory, however, ought not to be made instrumental, through her inability to defend it, to purposes so injurious to the United States. To a country, over which she fails to maintain her authority, and which she permits to be converted to the annoyance of her neighbors, her jurisdiction for the time necessarily ceases to exist. The territory of Spain will, nevertheless, be respected so far as it may be done, consistently with the essential interests and safety of the United States. In expelling these adventurers from these posts, it was not intended to make any conquest from Spain, or to injure in any degree the cause of the colonies. Care will be taken that no part of the territory contemplated by the law of 1811, shall be occupied by a foreign government of any kind, or that injuries of the nature of those complained of shall be repeated; but this it is expected will be provided for, with every other interest, in a spirit of amity, in the negotiation now depending with the government of Spain. JAS. MONROE.

#### AMELIA ISLAND.

*Documents accompanying the message of the President to Congress, on the 13th instant.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

January 12th, 1818.

SIR—I have the honor to transmit copies of the orders which have been given by the acting Secretary of War to Major Bankhead, in relation to taking possession of Amelia Island, and copies of the communications which have been made to this department by that officer, which embraces all the information in my possession.

I have the honor to be, sir, with the highest respect, your most obedient servant,

J. C. CALHOUN.

*The President of the U. S.*

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,

Off Amelia, Dec. 22, 1817.

SIR—We have received orders from our government to take possession of Amelia Island and to occupy the post of Fernandina with a part of our force, which will be moved over as soon as it will be convenient for your troops to evacuate it.

To avoid unnecessary delay, we think proper at this time to inform you, in the event of your acquiescence in this demand, that you will be at liberty to depart with the forces under your command, and such property as belongs unquestionably to them will be held sacred.

You are to leave the public property found by general McGregor at Fernandina, in the same condition it was taken, and the property of the inhabitants of Amelia Island must be restored to them, where they have been forcibly dispossessed of it, and no depredations on private property from this period will be permitted with impunity.

Should you, contrary to the expectations of the President of the United States, refuse to give us peaceable possession of the Island, the consequence of resistance must rest with you.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servants. J. D. HENLEY, Capt. in the navy, and comd. in chief of the naval forces of the U. S. off Amelia.

JAS. BANKHEAD.

Maj. 1st bat. art. comd. land forces.  
Gen. AURY, *Commander in chief  
of the forces at Fernandina.*

Head quarters, Fernandina, Island of Amelia, Dec. 23d, 1817, and 8th of the independence.

GENTLEMEN—I have had the honor to receive your official letter of this day. The nature of its contents requiring mature deliberation, I have submitted the same to the representatives of the republic, and as soon as I shall have obtained their opinion, it shall be immediately sent to you.

I can, however, state to you, gentlemen, that no opposition will be made to surrender the Island of Amelia, on the part of this government.

I have the honor to remain, with consideration, gentlemen, your ob't and humble servant.

AURY,

*Commander in chief.*

*Com: J. D. Henley, Maj. Bankhead, &c.  
on board the U. S. ship John Adams.*

Head-Quarters, Fernandina, Island of Amelia, December 22, 1817, and the 8th of the independence.

GENTLEMEN—I have received your official letter of this day, by which, in the name of the government of the United States, you summon us to evacuate this place, with the troops under my command, as possession thereof is to be taken by the forces under your command, under certain conditions therein specified.

This republic, that of Mexico, nor any other of South America, being at war with the United States, oblige me to state to you that the contents of your letter have greatly surprised this government and the people of the state. You have nevertheless intimated that, in case of our acquiescence to your demand, we shall be permitted to evacuate this Island, which is not now nor ever has been a part of the United States.—Allow me, gentlemen, to observe to you, that from the moment we took Fernandina by the force of our arms we entered into the full possession of all the rights, appertaining to our enemy, and that to this day we have supported these rights at the risk of our lives and fortunes. The boundaries of the Floridas and the United States having been fairly settled by the treaty of friendship, limits, and navigation, on the twenty-second of October, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five; leave us at a loss to ascertain your authority to interfere in our internal concerns.

Our surprise increases when we reflect that your communication comes as authorized by the government of a people who glory in their respect for the rights of nations, whether great or small, and who no doubt sympathize and wish success to their southern brethren, in the struggle for liberty and independence, in which they are engaged, as were the United States forty years ago.

On the other side, you promise to hold sacred such of our property as unquestionably belongs to our citizens. Who is to be the judge in this case? The United States, who can, by no means, claim any kind of jurisdiction from the source of the river St. Mary's, down to the ocean, on this side of the centre of the channel? We entertain too much veneration for your constitution to believe for a single moment that you, supposed already in possession of this island, which has never been ceded by the king of Spain, or by its inhabitants to the United States, can bring with you a competent tribunal to decide upon this question.

The only law you can adduce in your favor, is that of force, which is always repugnant to republican governments and to the principles of a just and impartial nation. The same observation may be applied to your interference with the property of the inhabitants, which we have always respected and considered as sacred.

You order us, also, as if we were subjects of your government, to leave behind, when Fernandina is evacuated, all the public property that was found at its surrender. This demand is directly contrary to the public rights by which all public property captured by the enemy is avowedly that of the captors, when not otherwise stipulated.—Are you acting in the name of the King of Spain or his allies? As we consider the people of the United States to be unquestionably the only free people on the surface of the globe, we cannot admit that you have now become the adherents of a tyrant; otherwise your demand is inadmissible and unjustifiable in the eyes of the world, and if we must yield to it all the blame rests with you.

Permit me, therefore, gentlemen, to request of you, to lay before the President of the United States these remarks, in order that a matter of so serious a tendency may be reconsidered. We have read his Excellency's Message at the opening of Congress, with the utmost concern; and have concluded that the political situation of this republic has been greatly misrepresented, in the United States, through the intrigues of our enemies. We have certainly a right to be heard, for which purpose I shall have the honor of forwarding to your government the necessary documents.

If you are not disposed to let things remain in *status quo*, until the President's further determination be known, I am authorised to assure you that we respect and esteem too highly the people of the United States to carry matters to extremities.

I have the honor to remain, with the highest consideration, gentlemen, your obedient and humble servant,

AURY,  
Commander in Chief.

J. D. Henley, Esq. Captain in the Navy, and commanding the United States Naval forces off Amelia. James Bankhead, Esq. Major of the 1st battalion of artillery, U. S. Army, and commanding Military forces.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
off Amelia Island, Dec. 23d, 1817.

SIR—We have had the honor to receive your communication of the 22d inst. and will briefly remark that, as officers in the service of the United States, we are bound to obey the orders emanating from the authorities of our government, without any discussion or animadversion on our part as to the correctness of them. We have been ordered by the President of the United States to take possession of Amelia Island, and, as the President has expressed his solicitude that the effusion of blood may be avoided, if possible, it must be gratifying to us to be informed by you, that no resistance will be made to us.

We will again remark that private property will be sacred, and that our orders extend only to the public property captured by Gen. Mac Gregor, at Fernandina.

We propose to land a force to-day, and to hoist the American flag. Under that flag no oppressive or unjust measures will ever be witnessed;

and we feel assured that there will be no difficulties in the arrangements made by us.

The squadron will immediately sail into the harbor, when the commanding officer of the land forces will wait on the commander in chief, to make the necessary arrangements for the landing of the troops. We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants.

J. D. HENLEY,  
Captain in the Navy, and commander in chief of the U. S. Naval forces off Amelia.

JAMES BANKHEAD,  
Major 1st battalion artillery, commander land forces, &c.  
Gen. Aury, commander in chief of the forces at Fernandina.

Head-Quarters, Fernandina, Island of Amelia,  
December 23d, 1817, and 8th of the Independence.

I have had the honor to receive your letter of this date. I am ready to surrender this place to the forces under your command, whenever you may judge proper to come and take possession thereof.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

AURY,  
Commander in chief.

J. D. HENLEY, Esq.  
Captain in the Navy, &c. &c.  
JAS. BANKHEAD, Esq.  
Major 1st Bat. &c. &c.

Department of War,  
17th July 1817,

SIR—Circumstances having made it necessary to occupy, without delay, Point Petre, and the St. Mary's river, by a military and naval force, I have to request that you will instruct the officer whom, in pursuance of the order issued through the adjutant general, you may detail to take command at Point Petre, to co-operate with the officer commanding the naval force on that station, in such measures as may be deemed necessary for the preservation of the peace and tranquility of that section of the country, which there is reason to apprehend may be disturbed in consequence of the contest between the Spanish royalists and patriots, for the occupation of the adjacent territory. The officer will also be instructed to use due vigilance to prevent the violation of the revenue laws of the United States, and in particular to prevent the illicit introduction of slaves into the United States; and in order to do this the more effectually, he will prohibit all vessels freighted with slaves from entering the river St. Mary's.

I have the honor to be, &c.

GEO. GRAHAM,

The officer commanding at  
Charleston, S. C.

Extract of letter from George Graham, acting Secretary of War, to Major James Bankhead, Charleston, S. C. dated November 12, 1817.

"I am instructed by the president to direct you to repair immediately to Point Petre, with the effective force under your command, leaving only an officer and a few men as a guard at forts Moultrie and Johnson. Captain Wilson has been ordered to repair with his company, now at fort Johnson, North Carolina, to Point Petre, and

a detachment of new recruits, under the command of Captain Hook, who was on his route to join the 4th infantry, has also been ordered to that place. The troops enumerated above, and those now stationed at Point Petre, will constitute a force of more than two hundred men, of which you will take the command until the arrival of general Gaines. A remittance of five thousand dollars has been made to your battalion quartermaster, whom you will take with you: and you will make requisitions for the necessary supply of provisions, on the contractor's agents. It will be advisable to take from Charleston a supply of salted meat, and a sufficient quantity of flour and hard bread, to serve two hundred and fifty men for thirty days at least."

Department of War, Nov. 12th 1817.

Sir—It appearing to the satisfaction of the president, that the persons who have lately taken possession of Amelia Island, have done it without the sanction of any of the Spanish colonies, or of any organized government whatever, and for purposes unfriendly to, and incompatible with, the interests of the United States, he has decided to break up that establishment, and take temporary possession of Amelia Island; for this purpose, the troops ordered to assemble at Point Petre, will co-operate with the naval force which has been ordered to St. Mary's under the command of captain Henley.

It is the anxious wish of the president, that this should be accomplished without the effusion of blood; and he confidently hopes, that the force destined for the purpose will be of such an imposing character, as to induce those persons who now have the military occupation of the island, to abandon it without the exercise of force; but, if it should be found to be indispensably necessary, force must be used. You will, therefore, immediately on the arrival of captain Henley at St. Mary's, and, in conjunction with him, despatch an officer to demand the abandonment of the island, by those who now exercise authority there, and take such other measures as may be deemed proper to obtain the peaceable possession of it; also for the preservation of the property of those persons who were residents of the island when it was first captured by general M'Gregor. Should your demand for the evacuation of Amelia be complied with, you will then occupy with a part of your force the position of Fernandina, and take care that the cannon and other implements of war which belonged to the port when captured by general M'Gregor, are not taken off.

If peaceable possession of the island, however, cannot be obtained, and it should be the opinion of captain Henley and yourself that your joint forces are not competent to the prompt and certain reduction of the naval and military forces which may then occupy the harbor and post of Fernandina, you will in that event, make a requisition on general Floyd, or such other officer as may command that division of the militia of Georgia in which Point Petre is situated, for a force not exceeding five hundred men, to be held in readiness to march at a moment's warning, and await the arrival of general Gaines, who has been ordered to Point Petre, for ulterior measures.

You will take with you from Charleston the necessary military stores, and such heavy cannon as may be required for the reduction of the fort on Amelia Island, in the event of resistance.

As no answer has been received to the communication addressed to you from this department on the 17th July last, it becomes necessary to request that the receipt of this may be acknowledged, and that you also advise this department regularly of your movements.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

GEORGE GRAHAM.

Major JAMES BANKHEAD,  
Commanding at Charleston, S. C.

Fernandina, Amelia Island,  
December 24, 1817.

Sir—I have the honor to lay before you the correspondence held with general Aury, the late commander of this place, and to inform you that the American flag was raised here yesterday afternoon.

Several days will elapse before general Aury can withdraw his followers, but I have taken every measure to ensure tranquility, by ordering all his black soldiers to be embarked on board one of the ships lying in port, and by not suffering any person to appear in the town with arms, but his officers; and the moment their vessels are prepared to receive the whole of them, they shall depart.

Most of the inhabitants of this place, at this time, are followers of Aury, and those persons who have been drawn here from motives of speculation, who are, I suspect, of that profligate character generally engaged in the violation or evasion of our revenue laws. I shall, therefore, consult with commodore Henley, and will enforce such regulations as may be most likely to preserve order, until I receive instructions from the government.

Until this place is completely evacuated by this band of negroes and privateersmen, I have deemed it prudent to keep the whole of my force here. On their departure I shall move all but one company to Point Petre.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

JAS. BANKHEAD.

Major 1st battalion artillery S. D.  
commanding detachment U. S.  
troops.

GEORGE GRAHAM, esquire,  
Acting secretary of war.

Fernandina, Amelia Island,  
Dec. 27, 1817.

Sir—I had the honor to forward to the War Department, on the 24th inst. a copy of the correspondence with General Aury, previous to the landing of the troops under my command; and I herewith send a duplicate of the same.

Some difficulty has arisen from a want of competent authority, to settle the disputed claims of the residents of this place against the late government and the followers of Aury, who do not seem disposed to comply with their engagements.

One or two vessels have arrived here with cargoes, which the owners are desirous to land, and it might be improper to permit it without obtaining security for the duties which the laws of the United States require; and other vessels loaded in this port have met with some delay in clearing for their destination; but the counsel of General Gaines, who arrived here last night, will regulate my conduct, and will, in a great measure, relieve my anxiety.



I have been obliged to exercise my authority, as commanding officer at this place, to preserve order; and I am happy to say, that nothing unpleasant has occurred. I cannot say when Gen. Aury and his party will sail. Their vessels are much out of order, and their arrangements to that effect progress but slowly. The morning after I landed, I ordered all the black and French troops to be embarked on board of some of their vessels—but the crews of their privateers, and many others of all nations, who it is difficult to restrain from violence and excess, are still here.

Until I am honored with your instructions, I hope that the course I may pursue may meet the approbation of the President.

Gen. Gaines leave this for the western frontier of Georgia the day after to-morrow.

I have the honor to be, with high respect, your most obedient servant,

JAS. BANKHEAD,

Major 1st battalion artillery, and commanding this post.

To the hon. the Secretary of War.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

Jan. 13th, 1818.

SIR—I have the honor to enclose herewith, copies of orders to Captain John H. Elton, and Com. John D. Henley, in relation to Amelia Island; also a letter from the latter officer, communicating information of the surrender of that place to the military and naval force of the United States, together with the correspondence which took place on that occasion.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect sir, your most obedient servant,

B. W. CROWNINSHIELD.

To the President of the United States.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

July 16, 1817.

SIR—Proceed immediately with the United States' brig Saranac under your command to the river St. Mary's in Georgia, and inform the military commander of your arrival, and of the objects specially designated to you in these orders.

The recent occupation of Amelia Island by an officer in the service of the Spanish revolutionists, occasions just apprehensions, that from the vicinity to the coast of Georgia, attempts will be made to introduce slaves into the United States, contrary to the existing laws; and further attempts at illicit trade in smuggling goods in violation of our revenue laws.

You are hereby directed to detain and search every vessel, under whatever flag, which may enter the river St. Mary's or be found hovering upon the coast under auspicious circumstances, and seize every vessel freighted with slaves, or whose doubtful character and situation shall indicate an intention of smuggling.

In the execution of these orders, you will take special care not to interrupt or detain any vessels with regular papers, and of a national character, upon lawful voyages to or from a port or ports of the United States.

The traffic in slaves is intended to be restrained and, in the performance of this duty, you will exercise your sound judgment in regard to all vessels you may visit.

Communicate frequently to this Department, every event connected with this service, and, if it shall be found necessary, a further naval force

will be sent, either to strengthen your command, or to relieve you so as to pursue your original destination. If you find it necessary upon your arrival at St. Mary's to employ a good pilot, well acquainted with the coast, rivers, and inlets, you are authorised to do so.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. W. CROWNINSHIELD.

Captain John H. Elton,  
Commanding United States'  
brig Saranac, New York.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, Nov. 14, 1817.

SIR—Having been appointed to the command of the United States' ship John Adams, you are hereby ordered, in conformity to the wishes of the President of the United States, to proceed forthwith to the port of St. Mary's, in Georgia, taking with you the United States' brigs Enterprise and Prometheus, and the schooner Lynx, if the two latter have arrived in New York, and are in a state of readiness to accompany you; but you will not procrastinate the departure of the ship John Adams on account of these vessels, as any of them not fully prepared to proceed with you, shall be ordered to join you as soon as practicable at St. Mary's, at which place you will find the United States' brig Saranac, Captain John H. Elton, and gun-boat No. 168, lieutenant commandant R. McCall, both of which vessels will act under your orders.

The object of the President of the United States in ordering this naval force to St. Mary's, is to remove from Amelia Island the persons who have lately taken possession thereof, and, as it is understood and believed, without authority from the colonies, or any organized government whatever, and to the great annoyance of the United States. It has therefore been determined that these persons shall be removed from that island, and the possession shall be taken for the present by the land and naval forces of the United States.

On your arrival at St. Mary's, you will consult with the officer commanding the military force, who is instructed to co-operate with you in the performance of this service.

It is hoped that these persons will withdraw without bloodshed; and you will, for this purpose should your relative rank be superior to that of the commanding officer of the land forces, make known to the chief commanding in Amelia, the determination of the government of the United States to take possession of the island, and if the said chief, and the armed forces under his command, will peaceably quit the island, you will permit them to do so, taking special care that no depredations be committed on the inhabitants, whom it will be your duty to protect from violation or injury, either in their persons or property.

Should the force, however, now in command of the island, contrary to all expectations, resist and refuse absolutely to give up and abandon the same, you are to co-operate with the military force of the United States, to proceed and take possession of the island, in the name and by the authority of the United States.

Should you fall in with, on your way to St. Mary's, or find in Amelia, any vessels from the United States, armed and equipped by American citizens, acting as privateers, contrary to the laws of the United States, you will capture such, and send them to Savannah, in Georgia, to be dealt with according to law.

You will detain all prizes, or other vessels, having slaves on board, as the presumption is strong that they are intended to be smuggled into the United States. You will report from time to time to this Department, the operations of the forces under your command.

I am, very respectfully, &c.

B. W. CROWNINSHIELD.

Com. J. D. Henley.

P. S. These orders are not to be delivered to any person.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
Off Amelia, Dec. 24, 1817.

SIR—I have the honor to transmit a copy of the correspondence with general Aury, late commander of this place, and to inform you that the American flag was yesterday hoisted at Fernandina, and the island of Amelia taken possession of by the land forces under major Bankhead, of the U. S. artillery.

The black troops of general Aury have been embarked on board one of their ships lying in the port, and the remainder of his followers will be sent off the island as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made for the purpose. They are now engaged in watering their ships, and in the course of a week I hope to see all of them over the bar.

Most of the respectable inhabitant of this place, retired on its capture by M'Gregor, and those now here are principally adventurers who have been attracted by motives of speculation, and, as I suspect and have every reason to believe, been engaged in the violation of our revenue laws, to prevent which in future, such precautions will be taken as are within my power, and which will, I presume, be adequate to the purpose.

This will be sent by an express to Darien, the mail leaving this place but once a week.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant.

JOHN D. HENLEY.

The hon. B. W. Crowninshield,  
Secretary of the navy.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
Off Amelia, Dec. 30, 1817.

SIR—Since my arrival here I have been so much engaged that I have not had one moment to write to my friends. You no doubt, however, have some idea of my situation; and, from my official reports, known that the American flag is now flying on Amelia Island. As there are many novel cases which must present themselves, I should have been better pleased had my instructions been full; but we are now left to act as circumstances may require; and I fear that Aury and his followers will give us much trouble before they quit the island. I am sorry to add that the Americans appear to be much worse than any others. Should we be able to get through the business so as to meet the approbation of the department, I shall feel much gratified; but I trust that should I err in any steps that I may take, it will be considered by the president as an error of judgment; for I do assure you that nothing would be so pleasing to me as to have my conduct here approved by the executive. I have endeavored to keep as close to the letter of my instructions as possible, and have avoided every difficulty that I possibly could. I regret very much the difficulty of communicating with the government. We have only one mail per week, and that does not remain

in St. Mary's long enough to enable us to answer letters that we may receive by it.

The situation of my ship you are, no doubt, acquainted with, as I have written several times to the secretary on that subject. I, however, do not wish to leave this place until every thing is settled and the government have established some kind of police for the better government of this place, which I am in hopes will take place ere long. I am fearful that Aury expects that the American government will relinquish Amelia; which impression will retard his departure.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. D. HENLEY.

Hon. B. W. Crowninshield,  
Secretary of the navy, Washington.

Extract from the capitulation of the Island of Amelia, dated at Fernandina, 29th June, 1817, and signed by Francisco Morales and Joseph de Yribarren, attested by Bernardo Segin, and approved by Gregor MacGregor.

"Brigadier General MacGregor, commander in chief of all the forces, both naval and military, destined to effect the independence of the Floridas, and authorized by the constituted authorities of the republics of Mexico, Buenos Ayres, New Grenada, and Venezuela, offers to Don Francisco Morales, captain del regimiento de Cuba, and commandant, civil and military, of the island of Amelia, the following terms," &c. &c.

Extract from a proclamation of Gregor MacGregor, dated at head quarters, Amelia island, June 30, 1817, and signed Gregor MacGregor, attested by Jos. Yribarren, secretary.

#### "PROCLAMATION

"Gregor MacGregor, brigadier general of the armies of the United Provinces of New Grenada and Venezuela, and general in chief of the armies of the two Floridas, commissioned by the supreme directors of Mexico, South America, &c. &c.

"In the name of the independent governments of South America, which I have the honor to represent, I thank you for this first proof of your ardor and devotion to her cause, and I trust that, impelled by the same noble principles, you will soon be able to free the whole of the Floridas from tyranny and oppression."

Extract of a letter from gen. Aury to capt. J. D. Henley, commanding the United States naval forces off Amelia Island, and to major James Bankhead, commanding the United States military forces off the same place, dated at head quarters, Fernandina, island of Amelia, December 2d, 1817.

"Allow me, gentlemen, to observe to you, that from the moment we took Fernandina by the force of our arms, we entered into full possession of all the rights appertaining to our enemy, and that to this day we have supported these rights at the risk of our lives and fortunes. The boundaries of the Floridas and the United States, having been fairly settled by the treaty of friendship, limits, and navigation, on the twenty-seventh of October, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, leave us at a loss to ascertain your authority to interfere in our internal concerns."



The following laws being referred to in the president's message, which we this day publish, transmitting to both houses of congress, documents relating to the taking possession of Amelia Island by the United States troops: and as the propriety of this preceeding of the executive has been questioned by some persons, we publish the documents, and the laws, entire that our readers may have before them, a view of the whole ground, and judge for themselves. It will be perceived by the dates of those laws, that they were passed several years ago, though not before now promulgated.

# LAWS OF THE U. STATES.

## RESOLUTION.

Taking into view the peculiar situation of Spain and of her American provinces; and considering the influence which the destiny of the territory adjoining the southern border of the United States may have upon their security, tranquility, and commerce. Therefore,

*Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That the United States, under the peculiar circumstances of the existing crisis, cannot, without serious inquietude, see any part of the said territory pass into the hands of any foreign power; and that a due regard to their own safety compels them to provide under certain contingencies, for the temporary occupation of the said territory; they at the same time declare that the said territory shall in their hands remain, subject to future negotiation.

J. B. VARNUM,

Speaker of the house of representatives.

GEO: CLINTON,

Vice-president of the United States, and president of the senate.

January 15, 1811—Approved.

JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT to enable the president of the United States, under certain contingencies, to take possession of the country lying east of the river Perdido, and south of the state of Georgia and the Mississippi territory, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That the president of the United States be, and he is hereby authorised to take possession of, and occupy all or any part of the territory lying east of the river Perdido, and south of the state of Georgia and the Mississippi territory in case an arrangement has been, or shall be made with the local authority of the said territory, for delivering up the possession of the same, or any part thereof, to the United States, or in the event of an attempt to occupy the said territory, or any part thereof, by any foreign government; and he may, for the purpose of taking possession and occupying the territory aforesaid, and in order to maintain therein the authority of the United States, employ any part of the army and navy of the United States, which he may deem necessary.

*Sec. 2. And be it further enacted,* That one hundred thousand dollars be appropriated for defraying such expenses as the president may deem necessary for obtaining possession as aforesaid, and the se-

curity of the said territory, to be applied under the direction of the president, out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

*Sec. 3. Be it further enacted,* That in case possession of the territory aforesaid shall be obtained by the United States, as aforesaid, that until other provision be made by congress, the president be and he is hereby authorised, to establish, within the territory aforesaid, a temporary government, and the military, civil and judicial powers thereof shall be vested in such person or persons, and be exercised in such a manner, as he may direct, for the protection and maintenance of the inhabitants of the said territory in the full enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion.

J. B. VARNUM,

Speaker of the house of representatives.

GEO: CLINTON,

Vice-president of the United States, and president of the senate.

January 15, 1811—Approved.

JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT concerning an act to enable the president of the United States, under certain contingencies, to take possession of the country lying east of the river Perdido, and south of the state of Georgia and the Mississippi territory, and for other purposes, and the declaration accompanying the same.

*Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That this act, and the act passed during the present session of congress, entitled "An act to enable the president of the United States, under certain contingencies, to take possession of the country lying east of the river Perdido, and south of the state of Georgia and the Mississippi territory, and for other purposes," and the declaration accompanying the same, be not printed or published until the end of the next session of congress, unless directed by the president of the United States, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

J. B. VARNUM,

Speaker of the house of representatives.

JOHN POPE,

president of the senate, pro tempore.

March 3, 1811—Approved.

JAMES MADISON.

AN ACT authorising the president of the United States to take possession of a tract of country lying south of the Mississippi territory, and west of the river Perdido.

*Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That the president be, and he is hereby authorised, to occupy and hold all that tract of country called West Florida which lies west of the river Perdido, not now in possession of the United States,

*Sec. 2. And be it further enacted,* That, for the purpose of occupying and holding the country aforesaid, and of affording protection to the inhabitants thereof, under the authority of the United States, the president may employ such parts of the military and naval force of the United States as he may deem necessary.

*Sec. 3. And be it further enacted,* That for defraying the necessary expenses, twenty thousand dollars are hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise ap-

appropriated, and to be applied to the purposes aforesaid, under the direction of the president.

H. CLAY,

Speaker of the house of representatives

WM. H. CRAWFORD,

president of the senate, pro tempore.

February 12, 1813—Approved.

JAMES MADISON.

### NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

FIRST SESSION—FIFTEENTH CONGRESS.

#### SENATE.

Monday, January 12.

After much business of a private nature had been acted upon Mr. Burrill's resolution offered some days since (see page 12) in relation to the African slave trade was taken up, and after a short debate agreed to the bill from the house appropriating money for the public buildings, was referred to the committee on the district of Columbia.

#### Compensation to members.

The bill from the house, making compensation to the members of congress, was taken up in committee of the whole, and an amendment made in the phraseology, which was agreed to by the senate; when,

Mr. Wilson, after observing, that he should enter into no discussion of a question on which every member had unquestionably made up his mind, but, in order to take the sense of the senate, moved to strike out *eight* and insert *six* dollars, as the daily pay, and also as the allowance for every twenty miles travelled.

This motion was negatived, without debate, by a large majority.

Mr. Dickerson, then moved to strike out *eight* and insert *six*, as the allowance for every twenty miles travelled, and made a few observations in support of his motion. Mr. Daggett briefly replied.

The question was taken, the motion lost, the verbal amendment made was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time;

And the senate adjourned.

#### Amelia Island.

Jan. 14—A message received from the president of the United States, announcing the possession of Amelia Island was communicated to the senate, accompanied by certain documents, all of which will be found in this number of the register.

Mr. Fremont, submitted the following resolution for consideration:

*Resolved*, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing, to the judge of the sixth circuit court of the United States, a sum equal to the salary of the district court of South Carolina, for the term of one year, during which time the said circuit judge was compelled by law to perform the duties of the judge of said district court.

Mr. Williams, of Miss. submitted the following resolution for consideration:

*Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to inform the senate what measures have been taken in pursuance of so much of the third and fourth sections of the act entitled "An act to authorize the appointment of a surveyor for the lands in the northern part of the Mississippi territory, and the sale of certain lands

therein described," as relates to the preservation of certain sections, for the purpose of lying out and establishing towns thereon.

Mr. Cistenden, from the committee on the judiciary, to whom the subject had been referred, reported a bill to divide the state of Pennsylvania into two judicial circuits; which passed a second reading.

The senate resumed the consideration of the motion made by Mr. Wilson on the 10th inst. to instruct the committee on military affairs to inquire whether any, and if any, what further provisions by law are necessary to secure to the heirs of soldiers who died, or who were killed, in the service of their country, during the late war, the bounty in land to which they are equitably entitled; and agreed thereto.

The senate adjourned.

#### Journal of the Convention.

Jan. 15—Mr. Sawford, from the committee to whom was referred the joint resolution directing the publication of the journal of proceedings of the convention which formed the constitution, reported the same with some amendments, which were read.

The senate then went into the consideration of executive business; after which

The senate (for the purpose of allowing some repairs to be made to their chamber) adjourned to Monday.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Saturday, Jan. 10.—The Speaker laid before the house a letter directed to the congress of the United States, from a certain Carl Theodore Mohr, residing in Wallendorf, in Germany, offering to come to America upon certain conditions, and to establish a manufactory of porcelain; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. Sergeant, the committee of ways and means were instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing a drawback upon refined sugar exported from the United States.

#### Amelia Island.

Mr. Middleton, from the committee on so much of the message of the President of the United States as relates to the illicit introduction of slaves from Amelia Island into the United States, made the following report:

The committee to whom was referred so much of the President's message as relates to the illicit introduction of slaves from Amelia Island, having carefully taken the matter committed to them into consideration, respectfully report:

That, having applied to the department of state for information respecting the illicit introduction of slaves into the United States, they were referred by the secretary of state to the documents transmitted to this house by the President's message of the 15th December last, consisting of various extracts of papers on the files of the departments of state, of the treasury, and of the navy, relative to the proceedings of certain persons who took possession of Amelia Island in the summer of the past year, and also relative to a similar establishment previously made at Galveston, near the mouth of the river Trinity.

Upon a full investigation of these papers, with a view to the subject committed to them, your

committee are of opinion, that it is but too notorious, that numerous infractions of the law prohibiting the importation of slaves into the United States have been perpetrated with impunity upon our southern frontier; and they are further of opinion, that similar infractions would have been repeated with increasing activity, without the timely interposition of the naval force under direction of the executive of our government. In the course of the investigation, your committee have found it difficult to keep separate the special matter given into their charge, from topics of a more general nature, which are necessarily interwoven therewith: they therefore crave the indulgence of the house, while they present some general views, connected with the subject, which have developed themselves in the prosecution of their inquiry.

It would appear from what had been collected from these papers, that numerous violations of our laws have been latterly committed by a combination of freebooters and smugglers of various nations, who located themselves in the first instance upon an uninhabited spot near the mouth of the river Trinity, within the jurisdictional limits of the United States, as claimed in virtue of the treaty of cession of Louisiana by France. This association of persons organized a system of plunder upon the high seas, directed chiefly against Spanish property, which consisted frequently of slaves from the coast of Africa: but their conduct appears not always to have been regulated by a strict regard to the national character of vessels falling into their hands, when specie or other very valuable articles formed part of the cargo. Their vessels generally sailed under a pretended Mexican flag, although it does not appear that the establishment of Galvezton was sanctioned by, or connected with, any government. The presumption, too, of any authority ever having been given for such an establishment, is strongly repelled as well by its piratical character, as by its itinerant nature; for the first position, at Galvezton, was abandoned on or about the 5th of April last, for one near Matagorda, upon the Spanish territory; and at a later period this last was abandoned and a transfer made to Amelia Island, in East Florida; a post which had been previously seized by persons, who appear to have been equally unauthorized, and who were, at the time of the said transfer, upon the point, it is believed, of abandoning their enterprise, from the failure of resources, which they expected to have drawn from within our limits, in defiance of our laws. There exists, on the part of these sea rovers, an organized system of daring enterprise, supported by force of arms; and it is only by a correspondent system of coercion that they can be met and constrained to respect the rights of property and the laws of nations. It is deeply to be regretted that practices of such a character, within our immediate neighborhood, and even within our jurisdictional limits, should have prevailed unchecked for so long a time; more especially, as one of their immediate consequences was to give occasion to the illicit introduction of slaves from the coast of Africa into these United States, and thus to revive a traffic repugnant to humanity and to all sound principles of policy, as well as severely punishable by the laws of the land.

By the 7th section of the act prohibiting the importation of slaves, passed in 1807, the Presi-

dent is fully authorized to employ the naval force to cruise on any part of the coast of the United States, or territories thereof, where he may judge attempts will be made to violate the provisions of that act, in order to seize and bring in for condemnation all vessels contravening its provisions, to be proceeded against according to law.

By the joint resolution of the senate and house of representatives of 15th January, 1811, and the act of the same date, the President is fully empowered to occupy any part or the whole of the territory lying east of the river Perdido, and south of the state of Georgia, in the event of an attempt to occupy the said territory, or any part thereof, by any foreign government or power; and, by the same resolution and act, he may employ any part of the army and navy of the United States, which he may deem necessary, for the purpose of taking possession and occupying the territory aforesaid, and in order to maintain therein the authority of the United States.

Among the avowed projects of the persons who have occupied Amelia Island, was that of making the conquest of East and West Florida, professedly for the purpose of establishing there an independent government; and the vacant lands in those provinces have been, from the origin of this undertaking down to the latest period, held out as lures to the cupidity of adventurers, and as resources for defraying the expenses of the expedition. The greater part of West Florida being in the actual possession of the United States, this project involved in its designs of direct hostility against them; and as the express object of the resolution and act of 15th January, 1811, was to authorize the President to prevent the province of East Florida from passing into the hands of any foreign power, it became the obvious duty of the President to exercise the authority vested in him by that law. It does not appear that, among these itinerant establishers of republics and distributors of Florida lands, there is a single individual inhabitant of the country where the republic was to be constituted, and whose lands were to be thus betowed: the project was therefore an attempt to occupy that territory by a foreign power. Where the profession is in such direct opposition to the fact; where the venerable forms, by which a free people constitute a frame of government for themselves, are prostituted by a horde of foreign freebooters for purposes of plunder; if, under color of authority from any of the provinces contending for their independence, the Floridas, or either of them, had been permitted to pass into the hands of such a power, the committee are persuaded it is quite unnecessary to point out to the discernment of the house the pernicious influence which such a destiny of the territories in question must have had upon the security, tranquillity, and commerce of this Union.

It is a matter of public notoriety, that two of the persons who have successively held the command at Amelia Island, whether authorized themselves by any government or not, have issued commissions for privateers, as in the name of the Venezuelan and Mexican governments, to vessels fitted out in the ports of the United States, and chiefly manned and officered by our own countrymen, for the purpose of capturing the property of nations with which the United States are at peace. One of the objects of the occupation of Amelia Island, it appears, was to possess a convenient re-



sott for privateers of this description, equally reprobated by the laws of nations, which recognize them only under the denomination of pirates, and by several of the treaties of the United States with different European powers, which expressly denominate them as such.\* It was against the subjects of Spain, one of the powers with which the United States have entered into stipulations prohibiting their citizens from taking any commission from any power with which she may be at war for arming any ships to act as privateers, that these vessels have been commissioned to cruise; though, as the committee have observed, no flag, not even that of our own country, has proved a protection from them. The immediate tendency of suffering such armaments, in defiance of our laws, would have been to embroil the United States with all the nations whose commerce with our country was suffering under these depredations; and, if not checked by all the means in the power of the government, would have authorized claims from the subjects of foreign governments for indemnities, at the expense of this nation, for captures by our people, in vessels fitted out in our ports, and, as could not fail of being alledged, countenanced by the very neglect of the necessary means for suppressing them. The possession of Amelia Island as a port of refuge for such privateers, and of illicit traffic in the United States of their prizes, which were frequently, as before stated, slave ships from Africa, was a powerful encouragement and temptation to multiply these violations of our laws, and made it the duty of the government to use all the means in its power to restore the security of our own commerce, and of that of friendly nations upon our coasts, which could in no other way more effectually be done than by taking from this piratical and smuggling combination their place of refuge.

In order, therefore, to give full effect to the intentions of the legislature, and in pursuance of the provisions of the above recited resolution and acts, it became necessary (as it appears to your committee) to suppress all establishments of the hostile nature of those above described, made in our vicinity, the objects of which appear to have been the occupation of the Floridas, the spoliation of peaceful commerce upon and near our coasts by piratical privateers, the clandestine importation of goods, and the illicit introduction of slaves within our limits. Such establishments, if suffered to subsist and strengthen, would probably have rendered nugatory all provisions made by law for the exclusion of prohibited persons. The course pursued on this occasion, will strongly mark the feelings and intentions of our government upon the great question of the slave trade, which is so justly considered by most civilized nations as repugnant to justice and humanity, and which, in our particular case, is not less so to all the dictates of a sound policy.

Your committee anticipate beneficial results from the adoption of these measures by the executive, in the promotion of the security of our southern frontier and its neighboring sea; and in the diminution of the evasions, latterly so fre-

quent, of our revenue and prohibitory laws.—The experience of ten years has however evinced the necessity of some new regulations being adopted in order effectually to put a stop to the farther introduction of slaves into the United States. In the act of congress prohibiting this importation, the policy of giving the whole forfeiture of vessel and goods to the United States, and no part thereof to the informer, may justly be doubted. This is an oversight which should be remedied. The act does indeed give a part of the personal penalties to the informer, but these penalties are generally only nominal. As the persons engaged in such traffic are usually poor, the omission of the states to pass acts to meet the act of congress, and to establish regulations in aid of the same, can only be remedied by congress legislating directly on the subject themselves as it is clearly within the scope of their constitutional powers to do.

For these purposes your committee beg leave respectfully herewith to report a bill.

Mr. Middleton also reported a bill in addition to the former acts prohibiting the introduction of slaves into the United States; and the bill was twice read and committed.

The report was not read, but ordered to be printed.

#### Col. Anderson's Case.

The speaker laid before the house the following letter and enclosure, yesterday received by him from John Anderson;

January 9, 1812.

SIR—Unwilling to be deprived, by any circumstances whatever, of an opportunity to explain to the honorable house of representatives the motives which have actuated my recent conduct, I beg leave to announce my wish to waive, with that object any constitutional or other question which may have arisen.

I enclose a letter which I had the honor this morning to prepare for the consideration of the house.

I am, Sir, with profound respect,

JOHN ANDERSON.

HON. HENRY CLAY,

Speaker of the house of representative.

SIR—Considering the honorable body before whose bar I am shortly to appear, as the guardian of those rights which as a citizen I possess, and relying upon the generous feelings of its members, I have been induced to forego the privilege extended to me of employing counsel, lest it might be supposed that I was inclined to shelter myself by legal exceptions. As the novelty of my situation may, however, tend to surround me with embarrassment, it is my wish, should the rule of proceeding adopted by the house not oppose the course, that such questions as I have reduced to writing, be propounded to the respective witnesses by the clerk, and he should read the explanation and apology which I have to make.

JOHN ANDERSON.

To the Honorable Henry Clay,

Speaker of the house of representatives of the United States.

The letter having been read—

Mr. Forsyth moved that the resolutions under consideration be laid on the table, that the house might proceed to the examination of the accused person.

\*See the treaty of peace with France, 1774, art. 21st United States Laws, vol. 1, page 83; with the Netherlands, 1762, art. 19, vol. 1, page 162; with Sweden, 1763, art. 23, vol. 1, page 100; with Great Britain, 1794, art. 21, vol. 1, page 218; with Prussia, 1795, art. 30, vol. 1, page 233; and 1797, art. 30, vol. 1, page 250; with Spain 1795, art. 14, vol. 1, page 270.

A brief debate took place on this motion (which he will give in its place) in which Messrs. Forth, Pitkin, Spencer, Harrison, Hopkinson, Poindexter, Desha, Rich, Beecher, and Pindall participated.

The motion was finally disagreed to, ayes about 30; and

The debate was then resumed on the resolutions offered by Mr. Spencer, and continued by Messrs. Poindexter, Holmes of Mass. Storrs, and Pindall, until after 4 o'clock; when

The house adjourned.

#### *Settlers on Public Lands.*

Jan. 12.—On motion of Mr. Scott,

*Resolved*, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency and policy of amending the act entitled "An act relating to the settlers on the lands of the United States," so that all settlers on public lands, who have not leased from the United States, shall remain thereon in peaceable possession, one year from the expiration of the existing laws on that subject.

Mr. Scott also offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the making disposable, like other public lands, such parts and portions of the lead mines and salt springs in the Missouri territory, as shall be deemed not of sufficient extent or value to be retained by the government, reserving such only as shall be deemed of sufficient extent and value for the public use.

#### *Case of Col. Anderson.*

The house then proceeded to the consideration of the resolutions offered by Mr. Spencer, touching the case of col. John Anderson.

The debate on this subject was resumed by Mr. Quarles, and continued during the remainder of the sitting by Messrs. M'Lane, Alexander Smyth, Lowndes, Livermore, Miller, Ithea and Barbour.

When the house adjourned, a motion was pending, made by Mr. Ithea, (for the purpose, he said, of putting an end to a debate on a negative proposition) to strike out of the preamble to the resolutions, the words, "entertaining great doubts of its," so as to make the preamble read, "this house possessing the competent power to punish John Anderson," &c.

The house adjourned a little after 4 o'clock,

#### *Petition of British Officers.*

Jan. 13.—Amongst the petitions this day presented, was one by Mr. Harrison, from col. Needham, and sundry other British officers, lately arrested and imprisoned at Philadelphia, on a charge of violating the neutrality of the United States between Spain and her colonies, but subsequently discharged from arrest and confinement, praying for the expense, trouble, and inconvenience which they have suffered, such relief as congress shall deem just and reasonable. The petition was referred to a special committee.

#### *Bill for half pay Pensioners, &c.*

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill providing for half pay pensioners, invalid pensioners and for other purposes; which was twice read by its title and committed.

[The provisions of this bill are substantially the following:

The first section gives to the secretary of war the power of placing upon the pension list all officers and soldiers of the revolutionary war, who are entitled to such by the provisions of the act making provisions on this subject, in the year 1816. Rules and regulations in force, or hereafter to be made and put in force, as to the admission of the officers and soldiers of the militia, and the regular soldiers on the pension roll of the United States, are made applicable to the invalids of the revolution, and of the Indian wars, placing all entitled to pensions on an equality.

Section second extends the half pay pensions of five years to the widows and orphans of the officers and soldiers of the militia, and others, now entitled by law, for a further term of five additional years, which will make the pension, if adopted, equal to half pay pensions to widows and orphans of ten years.

Section third provides half pay pensions, for the term of five years, for the widows of the soldiers of the regular army, who were killed in battle, or who died in the service during the late war.

Section fourth extends half pay pensions to all such widows as lost their husbands after their return home from the military service of the United States, provided they died within six months after such return, and of diseases contracted in the service.

By the fifth section, indigent mothers, who have lost an only son in the military service of the United States, provided such son died without wife or children, are to be provided for.

Section sixth provides that every widow, whose husband was killed in battle, or died in the service of his country, during the revolutionary war, shall receive a half pay pension for five years.]

#### *Fees of Officers in the Courts of the United States.*

Mr. Hopkinson moved the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to prepare and report a bill of fees for the officers of the United States, in the courts of the United States.

Mr. Hopkinson observed, in offering this resolution, that it was well known there was no uniform rule on this subject in the different courts of the United States. It was not, however, to establish uniformity only, but something like justice also, that he offered this motion: for if his information was correct, there were in some of the states, impositions practised which were a disgrace to the United States. In one which he would mention, in the state of New-York, a degree of outrageous imposition existed, which would shock every member who heard him. In that state, Mr. H. said, if he was truly informed, there had been one thousand prosecutions upon (the reporter understood him) license bonds; upon each of these cases, untied, the fees of the district attorney were sixty dollars, amounting to the sum of sixty thousand dollars in the whole. These were the fees of the district attorney alone; but including those of the marshal and clerk, each case was burthened with about 140 dollars costs. If such practices are legal, said Mr. H. they ought to be no longer so—if they are illegal, they ought to be suppressed.

The resolution was agreed to *nem con.*

#### *Case of John Anderson.*

The house having resumed the consideration of this subject.

Mr. *Spencer*, rose and withdrew the preamble to the resolution he had offered—leaving alone for consideration the resolution, directing all further proceedings against the accused to cease, directing the attorney general to institute proceedings against him, and instructing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of providing for the punishment of contempt of either house, for breach of privilege, &c.

On the general question, previously discussed, the debate was renewed, and continued with unabated animation to the close of the sitting. Messrs. Tallmadge, Hopkinson and Sergeant delivered their sentiments at large on the subject.

In the course of the debate, Mr. *Rhea*, with some incidental remarks on the resolutions, proposed a substitute to them, by the way of amendment, in the following words:

*Resolved*, That this house possesseth the competent power to punish John Anderson for his contempt of the house and his outrage upon one of its members: and, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the sergeant at arms be directed to conduct the said John Anderson to the bar of the house.

This motion was undecided, when, at a late hour,

The house adjourned.

January 15.—Some business of minor importance was transacted, after which on motion of Mr. *Barbour*, the committee on Post Office and Post Roads were instructed to inquire into the expediency of exempting from postage all letters and packets relative to the militia, to and from the Adjutant General of the respective states and territories.

#### Case of Colonel Anderson.

The House resumed the consideration of the case of Col. Anderson. The following resolutions moved by Mr. *Rhea*, by way of amendment, being yet under consideration.

*Resolved*, That this House possesseth competent power to punish for contempt of its authority.

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the sergeant at arms be directed to conduct John Anderson to the bar of the House.

Mr. *Rhea*, with a view to put his amendment in a shape more acceptable to gentlemen, modified his motion for amendment, so as to make the first resolution read as follows:

*Resolved*, That this House possesses adequate power to punish for contempts against it."

Mr. *Pitkin* assigned the reasons why he wished to avoid placing on the journal any thing affirming the authority of the House on the one hand, or denying it on the other; and, to escape the alternative presented to the House by the proposed resolution and amendment, he moved to postpone indefinitely the consideration of the main question and the amendment proposed thereto.

After some questions to the Chair, and explanations therefrom, respecting the effect of such a postponement, that effect was pronounced from the Chair to be, to place the question in the state in which it was when the motion of Mr. *Spencer* was first made; and, if this course were pursued, that the House would be at full liberty to take any course in respect to John Anderson, which in its opinion was within the scope of its constitutional powers.

After explanatory remarks from various members, among whom were Messrs. *Rich*, *Rhea*, *Tallmadge*, *Ballard Smith* and *Culbreth*—

The question was taken on the postponement, and decided as follows:

For indefinite postponement 117  
Against it 42

The propositions before the House were indefinitely postponed.

Whereupon, Mr. *Tallmadge* offered the following resolution for consideration.

*Resolved*, That John Anderson be forthwith brought to the bar of this House."

Mr. *Rich* proposed to amend the resolution, by adding thereto the following:

"And that he have an opportunity of offering to the House any explanation of his alleged offence, which he may think proper."

This motion Mr. *Rich* supported by observations regarding the general question, in which he opposed the expediency of proceeding further than he had suggested in the present case.

After a few observations from Mr. *Spencer*, however, Mr. *Rich* withdrew his proposition.

Mr. *Rich* subsequently moved to insert an amendment, denying the power of the House to judge or punish any individuals, its own members excepted, which motion was negatived by a large majority.

Mr. *Culbreth* then moved to strike out the whole of Mr. *Tallmadge's* resolution, and to substitute by way of amendment the following:

"Whereas John Anderson is in custody for an offence which this House does not possess the constitutional power to try, or right to punish—Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the said John Anderson be discharged from the custody of the sergeant at arms."

And the question was taken on the amendment thus proposed, and decided as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Allen, Mass. Anderson, Ken Ball, Barbour, Vir. Barber, Ohio, Bassett, Beecher, Bellinger, Cruger, Culbreth, Edwards, Erving, S. C. Forney, Fuller, Garnett, Hale, Hall, N. C. Hickimer, Herrick, Hitchcock, Hogg, Johnson, Ken Kinsey, Kirtland, Lawyer, Linn, Livermore, Merrill, T. M. Nelson, Poindexter, Porter, Quarles, Rich, Robertson, Ken. Robertson, Lou. Ross, Sawyer, Shaw, Silsbee, Bal. Smith, Speed, Spencer, Tarr, Trimble, Tucker, S. C. Walker, Ken. Williams, N. Y.—47.

NAYS.—Messrs. Abbott, Adams, Allen, Van Anderson, Pen. Austin, Baldwin, Bateman, Bayley, Bennett, Bloomfield, Blount, Boden, Bon, Bryan, Burwell, Butler, Campbell, Claggett, Chisholme, Cobb, Colston, Cook, Crafts, Crawford, Cushman, Darlington, Desha, Drake, Edlicott, Floyd, Folger, Forsyth, Gage, Hall, Del. Harrison, Herbert, Hiester, Holmes, Mass. Holmes, Con. Hopkinson, Hubbard, Hunter, Huntingdon, Ingham, Irving, N. Y. Jones, Little, McLane, W. Maclay, W. P. Maclay, M'Goy, Marchand, Marr, Mason, Mass. Mason, R. I. Mercer, Middleton, Miller, Moore, Morton, Moseley, Mumford, Murray, Jer. Nelson, Hugh Nelson, Nesbitt, New, Oden, Orr, Owen, Palmer, Parris, Parrot, Patterson, Pawling, Peter, Pindall, Pitkin, Pleasants, Reed, Rhea, Richards, Ruggles, Sampson, Savage, Schuyler, Scudder, Sergeant, Settler, Seybert, Sherwood, Sloucomb, S. Smith, Alex. Smyth, J. S. Smith, Southard, Storrs, Strong, Strother, Stuart, Tallmadge, Taylor, Terrell, Terry, Tompkins,



Townsend, Tucker, Va. Tyler, Upham, Walker, N. C. Wallace, Wendover, Westerlo, Whiteside, Whitman, Williams, Con. Williams, N. C. Wilson, Va.—119.

So the House refused to agree to the amendment proposed by Mr. Culbreth.

The question was then taken on the motion that "John Anderson be forthwith brought to the bar of this House," and decided in the affirmative by Yeas and Nays: 118 to 45.

Whereupon the sergeant at arms brought the prisoner to the bar, and the Speaker propounded to him the following interrogatories, to which he made the replies thereto:

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be John Anderson? *Answer.* Yes.

2. Did you write and deliver to Lewis Williams, a member of this House, the letter, of which a copy has been furnished to you by the Clerk? *Ans.* I did.

3. From what part of the city did you write the letter? *Ans.* I wrote it at Mr. Bestor's, where I board.

4. What is the amount of your own claims, which you are attempting to liquidate? *Answer.* About 9,000 dollars.

5. What is the amount of those of others, which you are soliciting? *Ans.* About 21,000 dollars.

6. Have you any interest in the latter. *Ans.* None, of a pecuniary kind, but am influenced in their pursuit by motives of charity.

7. Had you any authority from the persons you represent to make the offer contained in your letter? *Ans.* I have a general power of attorney to do for them as I would do for myself, but had no instructions to make that or any other offer.

8. Are you acquainted with any persons now in the city soliciting the claims of others? if so, name them. *Ans.* I am; there is a Mr. Pomeroy, who is soliciting his own claim, and Colonel Watson, who is a general agent.

9. Have you made any other offer to any person. *Ans.* No.

10. Did you consult or advise with any person before you wrote and delivered the letter? *Ans.* I did not.

11. Who is the Mr. Hulbard you mention in the letter? *Ans.* He is a gentleman I became partially acquainted with during the troubles at the river Raisin. I have not seen him since that time, till I arrived in this city at the present session of Congress, and did not recognize him until he made himself known to me.

12. Has he any claims to solicit? *Ans.* None, to my knowledge.

13. Have you any witnesses to examine, or defence to make, in justification or explanation of your conduct? If you have, the house is now ready to hear you.

The prisoner at the bar then called upon his witnesses, viz. General Harrison, Colonel Johnson, members of the House; Mr. R. J. Meigs, post master general; Captain Gray; Mr. Cyrus Hulbard; Captain Larrabee; Colonel Joseph Watson; Mr. John H. Platt; Captain S. D. Richardson; Mr. Pomroy; Lieutenant Conway; who, all being previously sworn, delivered in their testimony.

The testimony was uniform, as far as the knowledge of the witnesses extended in giving the accused a high character for probity, correct de-

portment, and patriotic conduct. It was too diffuse for publication entire; that of Colonel R. M. Johnson is selected as a specimen of the general tenor of the evidence.

Mr. Johnson, having been called on by the prisoner to give to the house any information in his possession, touching his character and conduct, testified to this effect: that his knowledge of the character of col. John Anderson was not derived so much from personal intercourse as from the information of others; but so far as his personal information extended, was corroborated by it. When col. J. was on the north-western frontier, col. Anderson was a fugitive from Detroit, on the river Raisin, as col. J. had understood; and being well acquainted with the frontier of that part of the United States, attached himself to the mounted regiment. How long he acted in that capacity Mr. J. did not recollect. As far, said Mr. J. as his conduct came within my own knowledge, I considered him a very gallant and a very brave man. In relation to the information he had from other quarters, there was a general consent of opinion that, during the war, col. Anderson had been considered not only a gallant and patriotic man, but a man of integrity, who had made uncommon sacrifices, of nearly all his property, from his devotion to the cause of the country. Mr. J. said he did also understand, from several sources, that col. Anderson, at the risk of his own life, did, at the river Raisin, rescue individuals from the hands of the savages. Col. J. had further understood, he said, that col. Anderson, had refused the command of a regiment, offered to him by the British commander, when the enemy had possession of that country; and col. Elliott, on being pressed to repeat the offer, answered, that he knew the character of col. Anderson, fully, and that he knew he would as soon submit to have his head chopped off as to accept of it. Of John Anderson, said Mr. J. in relation to his conduct to me at the last session and at this, I can say, without prejudice to the merits of others, I have never known an individual, whose losses were so great, and who knew I was disposed to advocate his claims, to take up so little of my time, and to be as modest in urging his claims. All these circumstances together had given to Mr. J. a high idea of the integrity, of the gallantry, and of the patriotism of col. Anderson.

Other facts than those above mentioned were established by ample testimony, descriptive of the sufferings and steadfastness of John Anderson in the cause of the country during the war, &c.

The examination of the witnesses had not closed when the house adjourned.

Friday, January 16.

In the course of the examination of witnesses yesterday, in the case of col. Anderson, a question was put by the Speaker to one of the witnesses, which led to the adoption of a resolution to appoint a committee to inquire whether any of the clerks, or other persons in the offices of government, have conducted themselves improperly or corruptly in the discharge of their duties.

John Anderson was then remanded to the bar of the house, and proceeded in the further examination of his witnesses.

General P. B. Porter, Wm. O'Neale, and W. P. Rathbone, were then examined as witnesses in behalf of the accused, whose testimony was to the same effect as that given yesterday.

Mr. Williams, of N. C. was then called upon by the accused, who put to him this question:

Q. Did I ever directly or indirectly, by any verbal communication, offer you any reward or inducement, to influence your good opinion in favor of my claim, or of any other claims?

Answer. You never made me any verbal offer of the kind.

Col. Anderson. That is all I wished the house to know from your testimony.

Mr. Williams. I presume, if you had made me any such offer, the house would have known it, without your asking it.

Mr. Wilson, of Pa. being also called upon, testified that col. A. had disclaimed, on finding the letter had offended Mr. Williams, any intention of offering the money to him with any other view than as a compensation for extra trouble.

On further questions by the Speaker to John Anderson, it appears that the accused is a native of Scotland, came to this country at three years old, and is a naturalized citizen.

The Speaker then said he had been instructed to propound to the prisoner the following interrogatory, to which col. Anderson made the reply subjoined.

Question.—In writing the letter to Lewis Williams, a member of this house from North Carolina, in which you offer to him the sum of five hundred dollars, for services to be performed by him in relation to claims for losses sustained during the late war, had you or had you not any intention to induce him to support your claims against his own convictions of their justice, or to interfere with the discharge of his legislative duties, or to offer any contempt to the dignity of the house of representatives.

Answer.—No, sir: I call God to witness that, which is the most sacred appeal I can make, I repeatedly assured him, that the offer was made without any wish to influence his opinions in any degree.

The accused was then questioned whether he had other witnesses to examine: he replied in the negative. The Speaker then called upon him for the defence which he had intimated it was his intention to offer.

The prisoner, then addressing the chair, with much earnestness, in a brief manner stated the same palliations of the offence with which he stood charged, as are explained more at large in the following address, which he concluded by delivering it to the clerk, by whom it was read:

(Which will be given in our next.)

*A skirmish with the Indians.*—An express reached Darien on Wednesday last from major-general Gaines to major Nix, the officer commanding at Darien, dated at the mouth of the Oconee river, 5th of January, 1818, stating that he (general Gaines) had just received an express from colonel Arbuckle informing him that major Mulenburg, who was ascending the Flint river with three vessels, having on board a detachment of United States' troops, provisions, &c. was attacked thirty miles below fort Scott by TWELVE HUNDRED Indians and ———, from both sides of the river, on the 16th ultimo. When the express left, which was on the 18th, the firing from both parties continued; at which time major Mulenburg had three men killed and thirteen wounded; but there was not the least apprehension of any of the vessels being taken that were under his com-

mand.—The troops so defended themselves in the vessels, from the enemy that they were perfectly safe. No man was killed or wounded only when in the act of warping, or casting anchor. Captain McIntosh, who commanded a post twelve miles from fort Scott, with forty men was attacked on the 15th ultimo, by between two and three hundred Indians.—Captain M. defeated them without losing a single man, and has since been relieved. There had also been a skirmish between the friendly and hostile savages, in which the chief of the former was killed, in consequence of which a number of the party under his command deserted and joined the hostile Indians. The drafted troops from this division were assembling at Darien every day, and it was understood that they would march immediately for Hartford. General Glascock at the head of one thousand men from this state left Hartford for the Indian nation on the 27th ultimo, in good order and high spirits. We understand the troops that were drafted from this city will take up their line of march on Wednesday next for Darien.

The proceedings of the national legislature seem to claim the preference to other matters, and are called for by our readers from every quarter; we are therefore compelled to omit much other matter, which otherwise would have a place. The extraordinary proceedings in the case of col. John Anderson, of the house of representatives, require attention: for the gratification of our readers we shall devote as large a space to it as possible, and, if found practicable, give the debates at length.

Since the suppression of the establishment at Amelia Island, there is but little intelligence from that place of interest.

It is stated, in a letter dated at Amelia on the 3d instant, to a gentleman in Savannah, that all the shipping of the United States at Cuba had been embargoed—amounting to one or two hundred sail!—and that three Spanish officers had arrived at St. Augustine from Havana, on their way to Amelia Island, to inquire on what ground, from what cause, the American government had taken possession of that place.

We are at a loss to conjecture what could induce the Spanish authorities to adopt such a measure.—We are disposed to doubt the correctness of this report.

#### ERRATA.

##### COLONEL ANDERSON'S LETTER.

In col. Anderson's letter published in our last number, an error occurred in the name of a gentleman therein mentioned, which, in justice to the parties requires correction. In part of our impression, the name of Mr. Hubbard, appeared among others referred to by col. Anderson, who would support a statement which he proposed to lay before the committee of claims; it should have been *Hubbard*. Mr. Hubbard is a respectable member from Madison county, New-York, to whom col. Anderson was entirely unknown, before he was brought before the house of representatives to answer for the alleged offence of writing the letter in question. Mr. Hubbard is, we understand, from Sandusky, Ohio, and is here as agent for the settlement of claims with the government. Gentlemen who received numbers containing this error, and keep file of the Register, are requested to make the correction with their pencils.